Department of State TELEGRAM

F770004-0693 CLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL 394

PAGE 01 MONTEV 01658 101350Z

53
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 NMCC-00 SY-03
AID-28 USSS-00 FBI-01 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-04
NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 O-03 RSR-01
/110 W

123859

O 101317Z AUG 70
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8109
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
USCINCSO

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 5/16/77
PER FDerme OFFICE ARA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 630373 Roosevelt

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1658

CINCSO FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: MITRIONE'S DEATH - INITIAL USG REACTION.

1. I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM DAN MIRTRIONE'S HOME. MRS. MITRIONE AND FAMILY ARE NATURALLY DEEPLY GRIEVED WITH THE NEWS OF DAN'S MURDER BUT ARE HOLDING UP AS WELL AS COULD BE EXPECTED IN THESE TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES. MRS. MITRIONE WAS VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE MESSAGES OF SYMPATHY FROM PRESIDENT AND MRS. NIXON AND SECRETARY AND MRS. ROGERS WHICH I READ TO HER.

2. ONE OF THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS NOW IS HOW USG SHOULD REACT TO MITRIONE MURDER, BEARING IN MIND THAT WE STILL HAVE AN AMERICAN CITIZEN IN TERRORIST HANDS. MY BASIC CONCERN NOW IS WITH THE SAFE RETURN AND THE MAXIMUM PROTECTION OF AMERICANS IN URUGUAY. BECAUSE OF THIS, I BELIEVE WE MUST RPT MUST CONTINUE TO BE CAUTIOUS IN ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS WE MAKE IN ORDER NOT TO DEGRADIZE CHANCES OF CLAUDE FLY. WE MUST AT THIS JUNCTURE AVOID TYPE OF PUBLIC CRITICISM OF GOU WHICH MIGHT WEAKEN THE ADMINISTRATION IN THE EYES OF THE URUGUAYAN PEOPLE AND THEREBY ADVERSELY AFFECT GOU'S ABILITY TO GIVE MAXIMUM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
DATE 4-22-83
DATE
REASON(S)
ENCLOSE EXISTING MARKINGS
DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE
RELEASE DENIED
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

PROTECTION TO AMERICAN CITIZENS.

3. ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT SUCCEED IN SAVING MITRIONE'S LIFE, EFFORTS OF POLICE AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN EXCELLENT. WE NOW SEE NO REASON WHY THIS SAME LEVEL OF EFFORT SHOULD NOT CONTINUE.

THROUGHOUT YESTERDAY, WHEN RUMORS WERE RAMPANT OF MITRIONE'S IMMINENT DEATH, THERE WAS WAVE OF POPULAR INDIGNATION AND OUTRAGE. MY PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISERS TELL ME THAT DURING SEVERAL INDIVIDUAL RAIDING OPERATIONS, PEOPLE FILLED THE STREETS CHEERING AND APPLAUDING POLICEMEN AS THEY PLACED SUSPECTS UNDER DETENTION. ON PRIVATE NEGOTIATIONS AND CONTACT, ONLY GOU KNOWS FULL EXTENT OF ITS OWN EFFORTS
BUT I HAVE NO DOUBT THEIR STATEMENTS TO US HAVE BEEN SINCERE. I BELIEVE THAT OUR PUBLIC POSITION ON THIS MATTER SHOULD BE SHAPED SO AS TO REENFORCE TO THE MAXIMUM RPT MAXIMUM EXTENT POLICE EFFORTS AND POPULAR SUPPORT.

4. FON MIN HAS JUST CALLED ME TO EXPRESS THE DEEPEST SHOCK OF THE GOVERNMENT OVER THIS TRAGEDY AND IS SENDING THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL TO THE EMBASSY NOW.

5. WE WILL BE SENDING FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS RE US STANCE ON THIS MATTER AS DAY PROGRESSES.
ADAIR